



## OVERPRODUCTION.

## THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND.

A Monstrous Falsehood Uttered by a Mis-Statesmen, and Given out By a Senile Editor Through a Corrupt Press.

## OVERPRODUCTION IMPOSSIBLE.

Thoughts for Statesmen--A Remedy For Hard Times.

(By W. S. Morgan, Author of "History of the Wheat and Alliance and The Impending Revolution.")

Written for the ADVOCATE.

Many years ago Thomas Carlyle wrote of us as a people, that we would "have our trial period".

"It will be" says he "when health is intact, crops abundant, and the munificent hand open. Then so-called statesmen will cry overproduction, and the man of the ballot, the self-reliant the self-plant, will go the ballot box amidst hunger and destitution, but surrounded by the glitter of self rule, and ratify by his ballot the monstrous falsehood, overproduction, uttered by mis-statesmen and vindicated by the same ballot; the infamous lie thrown upon the breeze by a senile editor through a corrupt press, and thus bring ruin upon the country, serfdom upon himself and the death of oppression upon his children."

Had Mr. Carlyle been divinely inspired he could hardly have described, with clearer prophetic vision, more precisely the condition of the American people at the present time.

We are passing through our "trial period". Take Kansas for instance. Were ever crops more abundant? Was ever health more intact? Was ever a people more industrious or more economical?

In the midst of all this seeming prosperity the cry of poverty comes up from the producers, and the mis-statesmen utters the "monstrous falsehood," overproduction. The same "infamous lie" is "thrown upon the breeze by a senile editor through a corrupt press" and what is the result?

The "infamous lie" ratified by the ballot of the producer, bringing "ruin upon his country, serfdom upon himself and the death of oppression upon his children."

The most abundant crop for years. What is it worth?

Corn, 15 cents per bushel; oats ten cents and wheat 60 cents per bushel.

Why is this?

Ask the lawyer, the partisan editor, the politician or the so-called statesmen and they will tell you it is overproduction.

Was ever lie more apparent on the face of it?

They have told you in substance, that if you had not produced so much you would be more prosperous; that you would have made more money; that the country in general would be in a better condition financially, if the people would not work so hard and overproduce everything. In short, we raise so much to eat that some of our people must go hungry; manufacture so much clothing and so many boots and shoes that some of us must go ragged and barefoot; that we dig out so much coal that many must suffer for want of fire. Oh, the flimsiness of such argument. How long will the people permit themselves to be gulled by such palpable falsehoods?

Down here in Arkansas we have a partial failure of crops and we are told that that is the cause of hard times. In Kansas they are blessed with an abundance and that is said to have caused hard times on account of an overproduction.

Oh! the cheek, the gall it must require for these self-important, self-conceited, blatant political demagogues, who never produced a dollar's worth of wealth in their lives, to make such statements, to propagate such lies. But a pity it is that in this enlightened age there can be found any considerable number of fools ready and willing to "ratify this infamous lie with their ballot."

Is overproduction possible? No. Why? Because on the products of labor we live. Labor feeds us, clothes us, warms us and builds houses in which to live.

Now suppose that everybody had a surplus of all these things. Would the cry of poverty and wail of despair go out through the land? The productions of labor contribute to the happiness and comfort of the human family; they are absolutely necessary to the existence of the human race. Is it possible, then, that these elements properly distributed, can entail misery and poverty upon the people? The idea is too absurd to think about; it is too repugnant to common sense. There might be such a thing as the overproduction of one or two things, to the neglect of something else equally as important; but this would be soon corrected by the loss in producing it as compared with the profits in producing that which is neglected, and the equilibrium is soon restored; but there never can be a general overproduction, (except, perhaps, of fools.)

The real cause of the general industrial depression throughout the country is an inequitable system of distribution. Statistics show that the wealth of the country has increased within the last twenty-five years from sixteen billion to sixty billion dollars. No other country has at any time in the history of the world

shown such rapid increase of wealth. As producers we have astonished the world.

It would seem that with all this increase of wealth, all made by the producers, that the industrial masses ought to be in a prosperous and happy condition. It is useless to add that such is not the case. But why? We have had a repetition of the statement that we have created within that time no less than five to seven thousand millionaires. But this is no answer to the question. How did these men accumulate such large fortunes while others, the real producers of wealth were growing poorer all the time? Squalid poverty on the one hand, and opulent wealth on the other, are only the results of a system, and men and organizations are only losing their time passing resolutions and condemning the men who have become wealthy, while they themselves are sustaining by their ballots the system fraught with all these evils.

And what is a civilization worth that produces such results? What of a statesman who utters not his warning against its evil tendencies? What of a Christianity that dare not unmask its rottenness and sound the warning note of danger? And what of a constituency, a freeman that will ratify this condition of things with his ballot?

The great trouble lies in our own system of distribution. Production and distribution are the two factors which must make up our National greatness. As is certainly apparent to all, we produce admirably, but we do not distribute properly.

The two principal factors in distribution are money and transportation. These, properly controlled, are the beneficent agents or servants of commerce. But under our system they have become the masters of commerce. They fix the terms upon which commerce shall be carried on and sustained. They levy tribute on the products of labor with an iron hand. Governors, judges, courts and legislatures do their bidding. Even the Executive of the nation is not without the pale of their influence. Those who control these agents of distribution have accumulated vast fortunes, and we have this anomalous condition: The nation wealthy, but the people poor.

For want of space we shall not undertake anything like a discussion of some of the prominent points relating to this most important question, but will content ourselves by indicating some of the evils which result from the present system, and the importance of applying the proper remedy. For a full discussion of this whole question with the proper remedy the reader is referred to "History of the Wheel and Alliance and Impending Revolution."

We have already stated that money and transportation were the two principal agents of distribution. Money as a medium of exchange facilitates barter, infuses new life and enterprise in every avocation. As an agent of distribution it may be subdivided as performing two distinct functions, or rather as bearing two different relations in performing its functions. They are usury and commerce or trade.

When we consider the power of interest and the evils which it entails upon all who come within reach of its grasping tentacles, we are not left to conjecture the importance which this branch of our subject bears to the matter under discussion, or as to the fate of the nation that permits itself to be drawn into this vortex that has swallowed the nations. Sixteen thousand millions of dollars worth of interest bearing, soul devouring mortgages resting upon the homes of our people.

Six thousand millions of interest bearing public indebtedness is eating away the vitals of American industry.

Eleven thousand millions of private indebtedness is sapping the energies of the nation's producers. Thirty-three thousand millions of dollars indebtedness!

This is the heritage we are preparing to bequeath to our children. This is the incubus on American labor. This is the Upas tree that is poisoning every element of national greatness; robbing enterprise of its energy; industry of its reward, public spirit of its patriotism and posterity of its inheritance. What is the interest burden? At eight per cent it amounts to two billion seven hundred and thirty millions of dollars per annum. This vast sum is annually transferred from the producers to the non-producers; Usury does it. Interest is usury. The greater part of this sum becomes principal and is each year added to the aggregate amount of the indebtedness of the country and becomes an additional burden upon the profits of industry.

Let us now consider for a moment what this vast sum means.

Twenty-seven hundred and thirty millions of dollars annual interest!

It represents the value of all the wheat raised in the United States in six years, at one dollar per bushel.

It represents all the corn raised in five years, at thirty-five cents per bushel.

It represents more than the civil war cost for any one year.

All the wheat, corn, hay, cotton and oats raised in the United States in one year, sold at the highest price obtainable would not bring money enough to pay this annual interest burden.

It would require a train of cars reaching twice around the globe to hold wheat